

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 11015 121817Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8043
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 11015

EXDIS
GENEVA PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC PEPR EG UK
SUBJECT: SECURITY CONCERNS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST
LONDON CONFERENCE (MELC)

1. IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE WORKED OUT THE FULLEST DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH SCOTLAND YARD TO MEET THE SECURITY DEMANDS OF MELC. THE BRITISH WILL HAVE A MASSIVE SECURITY ORGANIZATION IN SUPPORT, AND THEY FEEL ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF COPING WITH A THREAT AT THE CONFERENCE SITE. THEIR PRESENT WORRIES CENTER ON SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN OTHER PARTS OF LONDON AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY CITE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE POSSIBILITY OF ARAB STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST SADAT OR THE ISRAELIS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.

2. AKHBAR ARTICLE, REPORTED IN TODAY'S GUARDIAN, REFLECTS CONCERN BY BRITISH SECURITY SERVICES THAT THE LONDON MEETING POSES MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEMS. IN THE SUMMER TIME NORMALLY OVER ONE MILLION ARABS VISIT
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PAGE 02 LONDON 11015 121817Z

LONDON, AND THE ASSASSINATION OF A FORMER IRAQI PRIME MINISTER IN THE STREET BETWEEN TWO OF LONDON'S LUXURY HOTELS LAST WEEKEND (LONDON 10798) WAS ONLY THE MOST RECENT INCIDENCE OF ARAB POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN LONDON.

3. BRITISH SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE NOT PROPOSING TO US THAT THE MEETING BE MOVED, AND HAVE INDICATED GREAT

CONFIDENCE THAT THE SECURITY EFFORT DEVOTED TOWARDS THE
CONFERENCE SITE AND ATTENDEES WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
FINALLY, IT IS THEIR OPINION THAT FULLER CONSIDERATION
OF SECURITY ASPECTS WOULD HAVE INDICATED THAT THE CON-
FERENCE BE HELD IN A MORE ISOLATED SETTING IN THE UK.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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